

THE PLAN OF ACTION.

The Mineral Land Convention to Go Systematically at the Work in Hand.

An Association to be Formed and Stock Issued to Meet Necessary Expenses.

Secretary Noble Requested to Withdraw Final Action Until the Convention Can Present its Case.

The mineral land convention met again yesterday morning at 10 o'clock in the hall. Resolutions from Butte were read and the committee on resolutions of the convention. Lee Mantle then read the report of the committee on resolutions as follows, which was adopted:

Whereas, On the 7th day of February, 1888, the citizens of Montana met in mass convention at the city of Helena to protest against the acquisition of the Northern Pacific Railroad company of title to mineral lands within the limits of its grant in this state; and

Whereas, Said convention adopted a preamble and passed resolutions setting forth fully and forcibly all the facts and circumstances relating to the subject, and Whereas, Although the facts and proofs there gathered and submitted to the interior department have resulted in preventing the issuance of patents up to the present time, it now appears that the interior department has in the meantime been again pressing and immediate danger of said railroad company's acquiring such title; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention reaffirms the preamble and resolutions adopted by the Mineral Land Convention, held in the city of Helena on February 7, 1888, and that in furtherance of the statements and purposes therein expressed we recommend the following

PLAN OF PROCEDURE: 1. That a corporation be immediately formed to be known as the Mineral Land Association of Montana.

2. That the incorporators of said association shall be the following named persons, to-wit:

L. H. Hershfield and Thomas Cruse, of Lewis and Clark county.

A. H. Barrett and Wm. Thompson, of Silver Bow county.

A. H. Mitchell and Conrad Kohrs, of Deer Lodge county.

B. F. White, of Beaverhead county.

R. O. Hickman, of Madison county.

Vining A. Cook, of Jefferson county.

G. A. Wolf, of Missoula county.

David E. Folsom, of Meagher county.

3. The object of this association shall be to further in every way possible the aim and purpose of the Mineral Land Convention in preventing the Northern Pacific Railroad company from acquiring patents to the mineral lands of Montana located on the odd sections within the company's land grant.

4. The association shall be clothed with full power to employ counsel; to petition the secretary of the interior, the congress of the United States, the legislature of Montana and any and all other bodies or persons whose aid may be necessary to invoke and in all other ways to do whatever in its judgment may be wise and necessary to carry out the purposes of its organization.

5. For the purpose of raising the funds necessary to meet the expense of said association they are authorized by this convention to incorporate with a capital stock of \$50,000, which shall be issued in shares of \$1 each, the stock to be full paid and unassessable.

6. The association shall at once open books for subscription to stock and shall designate persons in the different localities of the state whose duty it shall be to circulate such books and secure subscriptions to stock.

7. The association shall adopt by-laws which shall set forth the manner and purpose of its organization, and shall have copies of the same printed and distributed with such other matter as it may deem proper.

8. That the Mineral Land Association shall immediately upon its organization ascertain the most practical and effective plan of procedure to be followed by owners of mining locations now in danger of being patented to the Northern Pacific Railroad company, and shall promulgate such plan through the medium of the press.

9. That the president of this convention is hereby authorized to fill any vacancies which may occur in the list of incorporators herewith submitted.

Resolved, That the president of this convention be, and he is hereby instructed to transmit to the president of the United States, to the honorable secretary of the interior, to the commissioner of the general land office and to each member of the United States senate and house of representatives a copy of the proceedings of this convention, together with a copy of the preamble and resolutions adopted by the former convention.

Resolved, That the president of this convention be, and he is hereby instructed to request the honorable secretary of the interior to suspend further action looking to the issuance of patents upon selections of land within the limits of its grant heretofore made to the Northern Pacific Railroad company until the Mineral Land association can formally present its views as to the best methods by which the true character of such lands may be determined.

Resolved, That the preservation of our mineral lands being a matter which affects every citizen of Montana, we respectfully urge upon the legislative assembly of Montana the justice and necessity of extending financial aid and moral support to this movement and we especially call upon the governor of Montana to extend his influence in this behalf.

Resolved, That when this convention adjourn, it do so subject to the call of the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Resolved, That this convention would advise the mineral land association to immediately bring before the honorable secretary of the interior the propriety and the right of that officer to appoint a commission to re-examine and re-designate the character of the mountainous lands included within the limits of the Northern Pacific land grant, with the purpose of correcting the erroneous designation of such lands heretofore made by government surveyors; and in furtherance of this object that the association should employ competent attorneys to examine and present the law and the rulings concerning the right and authority of the secretary of the interior in this matter.

Resolved, That the attention of the Hon. Secretary of the Interior and of congress be respectfully called to the fact that there are ten thousand mineral locations already made upon odd numbered sections

claimed by the Northern Pacific Railroad company.

In conclusion your committee, fully appreciating the vital importance of the great work undertaken by this convention, and realizing also the difficulties in the way of its accomplishment, would respectfully suggest that the Mineral Land Association as soon as organized should issue a call to the people of Montana requesting that public meetings shall be held in every locality throughout the state to the end that this subject may be fully discussed and the people correctly advised as to the serious nature of the threatened danger.

We believe that such a course will not only arouse public interest, but that it will also result in a generous aid being extended in support of the objects of the association.

R. O. HICKMAN, Chairman. JOSEPH K. CLARK, J. A. WOODSON, J. H. OWENS, A. H. NELSON, C. B. CLIDDES, WILL KENNEDY, LEE MANTLE.

Col. Sanders then held the floor for some time. He said he did not have the honor to be a delegate, but asked the privilege of saying a few words. On such an occasion as this he thought it best, first, to comprehend the difficulty, and then ascertain the remedy. Within the limits of the Northern Pacific grant through the western half of Montana and extending beyond Spokane Falls there was a mineral belt probably not paralleled elsewhere in the world. Within this belt mines have been discovered, are being discovered and will continue to be discovered doubtless for many hundred years to come. Through this mineral belt lands had been granted to the Northern Pacific Railroad company, but there was an infirmity of description which imperils seriously the mining industry. He held that the railroad company does not now own a foot of mineral land within the limits of its grant unless congress should change the law. This he held for two reasons. The congress of the United States, which created that corporation, denied to it the faculty of holding mineral lands and there was, therefore, inherent in the corporation itself an incapacity to take mineral lands sold or granted to it. Any attempt upon its part so to do would be ultra vires. Secondly, it appertains to congress to dispose of public lands, and congress in the act of incorporation passed July 2d 1864, excluded mineral lands from the grant to the railroad company except iron and coal. Last there might be some doubt about the matter, it thereafter on January 30, 1865, again provided that the grants to these railroads should not include mineral lands, but that they should be reserved exclusively to the United States, which provision was section 2346 of the revised statutes of the United States. He therefore held that in view of the law there was not a possibility of the Northern Pacific Railroad company ever obtaining title to mineral lands. Because he held that he did not, however, presume to question the wisdom of the act or doubt the usefulness of the action which it proposed. Speaking of the uncertainty of title which existed he took it for granted on the statutes and the authorities that if the Northern Pacific Railroad company should assume to convey to its grantee 100 acres of land, and that grantee should proceed to occupy the same, and thereafter one, or ten, or a hundred years hence there should be discovered on those premises mines which would pay for working, the company's grantee would not be the owner of the same, but they would belong to the discoverer, and he would be able to obtain patent from the United States and recover the possession of the same; and that no law of limitation or adverse possession would come to the rescue of the title of the railroad company. Such a condition of affairs was a great incubus to prosperity. He believed it was the duty of the government to amicably make some arrangement with the railroad company and take back all this land, not already disposed of, compensating the company with other lands or with compensation in some other form. He wished to assure all that the railroad company does not own and never can own any mine not coal or iron in Montana.

A. H. NELSON, Lee Mantle and General Harris also spoke.

A resolution offered by Kennedy was adopted that the secretary of the interior request the railroad company in obtaining title to lands to make the same proof as is required of private individuals in settling on lands.

A resolution offered by Hon. James Sullivan to the effect that it should be the duty of the mineral land association to procure the cancellation of the railroad company's grant in Montana so far as it applies to mineral lands, caused considerable discussion. An amendment offered by Mantle that the association correspond with the railroad company and endeavor to adjust the matter amicably if possible, was not adopted. Sullivan's motion was also lost. The convention then adjourned, subject to the call of the president.

REED WAS THE CHOICE.

The Wall Street Candidate the Republican Caucus Choice.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—The republican caucus was called to order promptly at noon to-day. Cannon, of Illinois, chairman of the caucus, resigned his place, being a candidate for the speakership, and Henderson, of Illinois, was chosen chairman. The call of the roll developed the presence of 165 members, four less than the republican strength in the house. Mr. Mudd, the contestant for Compton's seat from the Fifth Maryland district, took no part in the proceedings. The first ballot resulted: Reed, 78; McKinley, 38; Cannon, 22; Burrows, 10; Henderson, 16. Before a second ballot was called one of the absentees, Hermann, entered and on the second ballot voted for Reed. The second ballot resulted: Reed, 85; McKinley, 38; Cannon 19; Henderson, 14; Burrows, 10.

Edwin McPherson and John M. Carson were placed in nomination for the chief clerkship and McPherson was elected, 116 to 50. A. J. Holmes, ex-member of congress from Iowa, and A. H. Reed, of Minnesota, were the candidates for sergeant-at-arms, and Holmes was elected, 142 to 18. The contest over the doorkeeper was very animated, the candidates being Charles V. Adams of Maryland and Jas. A. Wheat of Wisconsin. Adams was elected by a bare majority—83 to 82. Wheat, however, was immediately nominated for postmaster, receiving 10 votes against 23 for Leitell, 20 for Worrell and 16 for McKee. Rev. Chas. R. Ramsdell, of the North Presbyterian church, was nominated for chaplain and the caucus adjourned.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

Two children of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fiske have scarlet fever.

Judge Joe Davis says the Lump Gulch Water company is now fully organized and may begin work this season.

The new class in commercial law begins to-morrow at the Helena Business College. New and old students are expected to be on hand.

ARMOUR UNDER FIRE.

The Big Chicago Packer Compelled to Answer Senator Vest's Questions.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—Senator Vest's committee, which has been investigating the dressed beef business, resumed the examination of witnesses this morning. P. D. Armour, of Chicago, the first witness, said he had been in the beef business all his life. The dressed beef business began to be important ten years ago. For two or three years it had not been remunerative; methods had to be studied and the business learned. In 1881 or 1882 it became a paying business. Prices are lower now, said the witness, than they were when we began the dressed beef business. In range cattle the decrease in prices, however, had not been so great as forty or fifty per cent. Armour was asked to what he attributed the decrease in prices. He said that he had prepared a written statement which would give his views.

W. J. Quinn, one of Armour's "young men," as he termed him, read a long statement which included the figures of the business for a term of years, and a comparison of prices at Chicago in 1883 and for 1888.

The latter, it was asserted in the paper, showed a reduction in the prices of the canned beef product of 30 per cent. In conclusion, the statement denied that Armour & Co. were engaged in any combination whatever to fix the price to be paid for cattle or the price for which the product should be sold.

An abstract was given of the dressed beef business of Armour & Co. during 1888, the year in which it was alleged the profits of the business were immense and in which public agitation occurred, resulting in the appointment of the committee conducting the investigation. This abstract showed that 340,650 head had been dressed, on which the net profit was \$418,105, an average of \$1.22 per head. Resuming his oral testimony, Armour said that over production and over marketing was responsible for the decrease in prices.

Vest asked witness if the Chicago market did not control prices? "I do not think so," was the answer. "It is the largest market and of course influences prices at other places. Chicago prices regulate prices largely."

Senator Vest, reading from the annual report of the Chicago stock yards for 1888, called the attention of witness to the fact that in 1881 there were marketed there 1,408,000 cattle, which brought \$183,000,000, and in 1885 2,611,000 cattle sold for \$182,000,000. How do you account for that?

It is in accordance with my statement, said Armour. The growth in the amount of cattle marketed exceeded the growth of the population.

In response to that, Vest presented a statement showing the increase of cattle and population ran along in about the same proportion. The attention of witness was directed to his statement that the placing of hides upon the free list had resulted in a large importation of them. Vest stated that hides were placed on the free list in 1872, while the table of prices in the statement began with 1875.

Vest then discussed with witness the combination of packers to fix the prices of better cuts, and to prevent a decline from over-supply. Witness said this combination included other packers; they all made the same prices.

"Well, then, don't you destroy the operations of the law of supply and demand?"

"No, sir; I don't think we do."

"With whom do you fix these prices?"

"That I decline to state until after consulting my attorney," responded witness.

Armour admitted being a member of the hog packing pool of 1886, in Chicago. "We paid twenty-five cents a hog for the privilege of killing them. There was no limit to the number we killed. There were eighteen firms and persons interested in the agreement."

"Have you any agreement with any persons as to the prices that shall be charged in certain districts?"

"Absolutely none."

"Is there any agreement as to the division of territory?"

Witness declined to answer.

HE KILLED HIS WIFE.

A Butte Teamster Mortally Wounds His Wife and Gives Himself Up.

BUTTE, Nov. 30.—[Special.]—Joseph Barriere shot his wife through the head at their home this morning and her death resulted almost instantly. Barriere then walked west on Galena street to Main, where he gave himself into the custody of Officer James, saying that he wanted to give himself up, as he had shot a woman. The fatal shot was heard by neighbors, who at once ran into the house. Mrs. Barriere was discovered lying on the floor near the bed and breathing her last. She lived but a few moments and never spoke.

In the room were also Barriere and the three little children of the woman, the oldest of whom is 17 years of age. Immediately after the shooting Barriere made an attempt to conceal the pistol with which he had killed his wife, but it was afterwards found by the officers, but one chamber being discharged. The bullet took effect in the left cheek of Mrs. Barriere, and ranged upward through the brain.

Her real name was Angeline Brazear, and her childhood was passed in Montreal. From that place she went to Chicago and then came to Butte. She was 40 years old and had been married a number of times. Four years ago Barriere met her and was infatuated, and marriage followed. After a couple of years she tired of Barriere and made no pretense of cherishing any affection for him. Her relations with other men were entirely without concealment, and she went so far as to go through the marriage ceremony with another man at Boulder last spring. Barriere was really attached to the woman and would not consent to be shaken off. The pair had frequent quarrels and abused each other violently.

All three of the children of the woman were in the room when the shooting occurred and the second child, a little girl of four years, and very intelligent, talked freely about the terrible occurrence.

Joseph Barriere is 32 years of age; as his name indicates, he is a Frenchman. He is of medium size, dark hair and eyes, and dark mustache, and bow-legged. He has been a resident of Butte for eleven years, and during most of that time has followed the occupation of teamster.

The coroner's jury was in session from 2 till 7 o'clock this evening, and then returned a compromise verdict to the effect the woman either killed herself or was killed by her husband. Barriere is held without bail.

THEY WERE REED MEN

Members From the New States Back the Wall Street Candidate for Speaker.

Carter Worked for the Anti-Silver Advocate First, Last and All the Time.

The Northwesterners Form a Combination to Keep Burrows Down—Washington's New Senators.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—[Special.]—The men from the northern tier of western states contributed their share to the making of a speaker-to-day. Handsbrough having promised Henderson a complimentary vote, and in deference to the wishes of a large number of Iowa men who had telegraphed him from North Dakota to vote for Henderson if he could, he supported the Iowa man on the first ballot. He then turned to Reed, and without his vote another ballot would have been necessary. Mr. Handsbrough says he would have been willing to vote for any western man who could have shown on the first ballot that he had any show of election, but he did not propose to go down with a forlorn hope for the mere sake of a sentiment, and especially as Reed was in every way satisfactory to him. Carter, of Montana, was a Reed man first, last and all the time. He was not only for him with his vote, but tried to get others to follow his example. McKinley would have been satisfactory to him, but he preferred Reed. Herman, of Oregon, did not vote for Reed on the first ballot, because he did not get there in time, but his vote saved him, as did any other one man's vote on the second ballot. Herman was an avowed Reed man from the time of his arrival here. Wilson, of Washington, although at the foot of the list, and fully aware that Reed had been nominated, stood by his first choice, McKinley. The new state men all went to him and urged that he make it a solid block of five from the new states, but he would not change. Mr. Wilson told them that if his vote was necessary to nominate, he would have a nomination had been made, as it was apparent to change for the simple reason that he wanted to get on the band wagon. Delegate Du Bois could not vote, but he was in the caucus and he was working as hard as he could for the Maine candidate. He was all over the hall, urging the northwesterners to come to his winner. The northern tier of states can feel pretty well satisfied with the result.

On the other candidates they voted as follows: Herman voted for McPherson. All the others for Carson.

For sergeant-at-arms, Herman, Wilson and Carter voted for Holmes, and Handsbrough for Capt. Reed.

For door-keeper, all voted for Capt. Wheat.

They all voted for Chas. A. Ramsdell for chaplain. Mr. Ramsdell is a college classmate of Delegate DuBois, and the Idaho man made it his special fight to secure his nomination.

None of the new state men were favorably impressed with C. Burrows. It seems that Senator Pettigrew claims that Burrows refused to report the bill dividing Dakota back in 1882, when both sections had agreed on a measure. It was given out by Burrows that Reed prevented it, but Senator Pettigrew denies this. Last night Pettigrew saw Reed and told him that in case of his success he did not want Burrows to be highly honored with a committee place. Reed made no promises, but the new state men in view of the prominent part they have played in the nomination of the speaker, will ask that Burrows be shelved as far as possible. The northwestern men wanted Wheat for doorkeeper, believing that they would have a chance for some of the 125 places he has to distribute. The caucus, however, adopted a resolution instructing the doorkeeper to divide the appointments in his department equitably among the states. There may be a few plans for the northwestern members, even with a Marylander as doorkeeper.

Both senators from Washington were at the Capitol to-day and selected seats in the senate chamber. They are on the extreme left of the president of the senate, and just behind the seats selected by the senators from North Dakota. Washington is the second state to get its senators on the ground for the winter's work.

The Real Estate Market.

The demand for Missoula real estate continues active. For the week McConnell Cook & Co report sales aggregating \$30,000, which added to the \$40,000 sales of the previous week make a grand total of \$70,000 for the first two weeks since their property was placed on the market. The Missoula office is so rushed with business that Mr. Cook left yesterday afternoon to assist Mr. McConnell and will remain there for some time.

Missoula. There is sure to be made by eastern people regarded a big boom there next spring, as the Indian reservation which is to be thrown open will attract thousands of people in search of homes. By opening this reservation for settlement a large timber and excellent agricultural area will be given to the public, and a rush similar to the Oklahoma boom is anticipated for the Flathead reserve. Last year that valley produced 250,000 pounds of fruit from young trees. Shrewd real estate men from Spokane Falls, Seattle, Tacoma, Butte, St. Paul and other cities are picking up bargains daily, and many Helena people are profling by the opportunities offered.

Singing School.

Professor Edward Bellis starts his new classes in vocal music and voice culture on Tuesday next, in the Helena business college hall, commencing at 8 o'clock. The opening session will be devoted to a lecture on acoustics, introducing music and the human voice. Experiments illustrative of the subject will be performed.

The opening exercises are free, and all desiring a knowledge of the art of reading vocal music are cordially invited. A class is also being organized at the depot. Music by Professor May.

AMUSEMENTS.

Charlotte Thompson Closes her Engagement—Coming Attractions.

A successful weeks' engagement was concluded by Miss Charlotte Thompson and company last evening. In the presentation of "Dripping Apart," Miss Thompson again showed her dramatic capabilities. It is one of the best constructed and most pleasing plays of Miss Thompson's repertoire. All of the week's performances have been witnessed by good audiences and the distinguished star and her company will be gladly welcomed again by Helena theatre-goers.

Spider and Fly.

Concerning the Spider and Fly that will be presented at Ming's opera house on Monday and Tuesday evenings an exchange says:

Bright dialogue, clever people, showy scenery, mirthful music and fetching costumes are the more important features which will insure the success of Fraser & Gill's spectacular pantomimic burlesque, "The Spider and Fly." Some of the scenes are essentially new and novel. Prominent among them is a gymnasium interior with its outfit of poles, bars, ropes, swings, trapeze fixings and other paraphernalia. A dozen handsome girls are at their various athletic, gymnastic and calisthenic exercises. The picture presented on the stage in this scene is an entirely new and beautiful one. Other scenes in the "Spider and Fly," are a cash girl's entry and chorus, and a railroad chorus, in which the girls are attired to represent the conductors of the best known local and transcontinental lines.

The Grismer-Davis Company.

Joseph Grismer and Phoebe Davis, supported by an excellent company, will open an engagement of four nights at Ming's opera house on Wednesday evening. The latest society melodrama, "The Tigress," will be the opening attraction. The San Francisco Chronicle says: When an actor buys two plays, and one proves a success, he is fortunate. Mr. Grismer came back from New York with "The Tigress" and "The Tigress," and got two successes. His "Count Guido Barotti" is an example of what a good actor can do. The feature of the play is Phoebe Davis' "Angela." This is the best acting part Miss Davis has appeared in recently. She has the intensity and flash of Jeffries Lewis in her best days, and carries an idea of sincerity which Miss Lewis never did. Her scene at the end of the prologue was strong, but in the third act there is a still better exhibition of her dramatic power.

McKee Rankin Coming.

McKee Rankin and Miss Nellie Bert, formerly leading lady at the California theatre, and a remarkably handsome and charming actress, will appear at Ming's on Dec. 9 and 10. The Runaway Wife, a successful domestic play, will be presented on both evenings. The reputation of these stars assures large audiences at both performances.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY.

It Was Well Observed Last Evening by the Caledonian Club of This City.

A clan of royal good fellows was present at the St. Andrew's day banquet given by the Caledonian club at the Crystal restaurant last evening. Not all of them could trace their ancestry to Scotland's shores, but all were in sympathy with the spirit of the occasion. It was a most enjoyable social event. From the overture of Finlay MacRae's bag pipe to the farewell song of Auld Lang Syne it was an evening to be remembered by all present. About sixty Scotchmen and foreignmen attended. Among the well-known guests were Major Maginnis, Col. Sennic, Col. McCutcheon, Lieutenant Governor Rickards and Senator Cornelius Hedges. After a satisfactory supper had been disposed of Colonel Botkin, the toastmaster, opened the literary programme with a few appropriate introductory remarks. Judge Blake, who was expected to make the first response, was unavoidably detained at Bozeman. He, however, sent a letter, which was read by Col. McCutcheon, and loudly applauded by the audience. Lieutenant Governor Rickards responded eloquently for the state of Montana. He said that Montana has a physique to be proud of. Walker Matheson's toast was "The day and all who honor it." His response was supplemented by a song called Yorkshire Sam, which brought forth loud applause. After Mr. Dalles had entertained the audience with a song, Colonel Sanders responded for "The pioneers of Montana." In his usual happy way he spoke eloquently of the early history of the state, closing with a glowing tribute to the worth and grandeur of Scottish character. Major Maginnis made a witty and eloquent response for "Our Guests." Hon. I. D. McCutcheon spoke for "The Scot in America," referring to the place of the Scot in history. Hon. Cornelius Hedges, in responding, for the press said that after a week's experience in a legislature he was proud to be in an assembly with a quorum. After Mr. McNaught had rendered a song, Prof. Simpson responded gracefully for our Lassies' Piper MacLae warbled a stirring Scottish air from his handsomely decorated pipe and the company dispersed with a chorus of song.

During his response Col. McCutcheon read the following poem of the poet Lyle.

Bonnie we sprig o' the dear purple heather,
Fresh frae the auld lan' my heart lo'vs eae weel;
Two croonies ha'e met when I've come thither;
Auld love revived wi' a kiss I nae seal.

Ye come like a warlock, wi' queer throchts surrounded,
Ye bring ta' my heart lang syne sinner days,
Em' like a watery storm my young dreams confounded.

When freedom an' I ran wild on the braes.

Bide near my heart; braw son o' the mountain,
For his sake who sent ye, an' for yer ain;
The bluid o' a Scot man he cauld at the fountain
When he can look on sic gift wi' disdain.

PERSONAL.

Frank Esler, of Bozeman, is at the Grand Central.

Attorney General Haskell returned from Glendive yesterday.

Mrs. J. R. Boyce, Sr., left for New York yesterday via Union Pacific.

Allen McDannell, superintendent of the Iron Mountain mine is at the Cosmopolitan.

W. H. Palmer, of Butte, W. V. Myers, Tosten and E. T. Johnson, of Minneapolis, are at the Grand Central.

C. W. Gorman, of St. Paul, one of the most popular salesmen of that city, is visiting his customers in Helena.

Poison Instead of Medi-ne.

CITY OF MEXICO, Nov. 30.—Poison, instead of medicine, was given to a number of the inmates of the Belem hospital Thursday night. Four persons have died and several are not expected to recover. A nurse and two students in charge of the ward have been arrested.

CAUGHT IN A FIRE TRAP.

Six Lives Lost by the Burning of the Minneapolis Tribune Building.

The Fire Starts on the Third Floor, Cutting off the Escape of Many Men.

Newspaper Writers, Telegraph Operators and Printers the Victims—The Building a Complete Ruin.

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 30.—Fire was discovered on the third floor of the Tribune building about 10:45 to-night and soon the entire building was wrapped in flames. On the seventh floor were situated many offices, the Tribune staff of editors, reporters and composers. A number of employees in attempting to escape jumped from the windows and a number of lives were lost. At midnight seven bodies had been taken out of the ruins.

At 1 a. m. the number of lives lost is over half a dozen, and possibly ten or more. The building is an eight-story one, at the corner of First avenue and Fourth street. It was occupied by the Tribune, Tribune-Star (evening edition of the Tribune) Minneapolis office of the Pioneer Press, and Evening Journal, besides a large number of other offices. The Tribune editorial force is on the seventh floor and their composing rooms above it. On these two floors there were nearly a hundred persons employed when the fire broke out. Access to the building is by way of an elevator, around which a narrow and dark stairway wound. At night this stairway was the only means of ingress or egress. The building might be called a veritable fire trap, and the danger to those located there has been often commented upon. The fire broke out on the third floor, and soon those on the upper floors were cut off from the street. The building was on the corner and the adjoining buildings were only one story in height, so no means of escape was afforded in that direction. The flames cut off the escape of the Pioneer Press force on the sixth floor, as well as the Tribune folks on the seventh and eighth. Reporter Barnes, of the Pioneer Press, had a narrow escape from the building, and left behind him Milton Pickett, assistant city editor, and one of the oldest men in the service of the paper. Pickett was lost in the burning building. The Tribune force suffered most, they located higher up and had less warning of their danger.

James F. Igoe, night operator of the Associated Press, met with a sad death. He was at work on the seventh floor when the fire broke out, and he was immediately opened the key, stating the fact to the head office at Chicago, and asking for a minute's time to investigate. Soon he returned to his instrument, apparently thinking he was safe, and told the sending operator to continue. In a moment he said he would have to skip, and found too late that his escape was cut off. He jumped from the seventh story window, and was so badly injured he died before reaching the hospital. He leaves a family.

Old man Pierce, a printer, was also killed. One report is that ten have been killed, but up to midnight only six bodies have been taken from the ruins, which were then falling. Those who were to be dead are Assistant City Editor Pickett, W. E. Miles, agent of the Associated Press; James F. Igoe, Associated Press operator; John Olson, president of the Vermillion, Dak., college; Quarey, Colwell, McCutcheon and Pierce, printers.

Another whose name could not be learned appeared at a window, and not seeing the ladder the firemen were raising, apparently lost his senses, and drawing a revolver from his pocket, placed it to his head and fired, falling backwards into the flames. W. H. Hoover and W. H. Williams, the latter the foreman of the composing room, were taken off just in time to escape a cloud of flames that swept the window, which was being held by a man named Williams. The building burned with such rapidity that the occupants were enveloped in flames and smoke almost before they were aware of it. The sixty-five men working on the seventh floor made a dash in a body for the stairway; forty made it run and got out; the rest made a frantic effort to get through the blinding smoke, and five of these were cut off at the fourth floor and jumped to the pavement. Three of them were badly hurt and the other two were killed.

A general alarm was turned in and the engines in the city responded to the call. The imprisoned printers gathered at the windows in the south end and shrieked wildly and despairingly for aid. "Hurry the ladders, for God's sake," was shrieked all the while and power that anguished dozens in peril of their lives would naster. A vast crowd from the opposite side, viewing the fire, shouted words of encouragement to the men in their strenuous endeavors to hurry them up. The long ladders seemed to move up at a snail's pace, but they finally reached position and the crowd began to descend. The flames were making steady encroachments in the corner where the frightened men had huddled. Life nets were brought, and some were saved by this means. The entire building is a mass of ruins.

The Tribune building was five years old, a brick structure, and valued at \$300,000. The loss will probably reach a million dollars; insurance not ascertained.

At the morgue are five bodies, that of Professor Olsen being enclosed in a plain pine coffin. On the floor are the bodies of Jerry Jenkinson, a compositor on the Tribune, a young man who was shortly to be married. Beside him are two bodies so bloated and burned, with the blood still oozing from their wounds, that they have not been recognized. On two tables are the corpses of Robert McCutcheon, a compositor, and Milton Pickett, a reporter on the Pioneer Press. Jenkinson endeavored to make his escape on the heavy telegraph wires. He clambered down a short way but was unable to retain his hold, and was obliged to drop to the ground. When picked up he was dead. McCutcheon, a big heavy man, jumped and was instantly killed. James F. Igoe, associated press operator, made vain endeavors to escape by coming down the wires. He had descended until within about fifty feet of the ground, when he was compelled to loosen his hold and died while being conveyed to the hospital. He leaves a wife and family.

A couple of bodies remain unidentified. One or two men, supposed to be dead, turned up alive. There were doubtless several more people at work in other parts of the building, and it is feared several of these did not escape